

The Tragedie

He is within and two reuerend Fathers,
Diuinely bent to meditation,
And in no worldly sute would he be mou'd,
To draw him from his holy exercise.

Buc. Returne good *Catesby* to thy Lord againe,
Tell him my selfe, the Maior and Citizens,
In deepe designes and matters of great moment,
No lesse importing them then our generall good,
Are come to haue some conference with his grace.

Cat. He tell him what you say my Lord.

Buc. A ha my Lord, this Prince is not an Edward,
He is not lulling on a leawd day bed,
But on his knees at meditation:
Not dallying with a brace of Curtizans,
But meditating with two deepe Diuines:
Not sleeping to ingrosse his idle body,
But praying to enrich his watchfull soule,
Happy were England, would this gracious prince
Take on him selfe the soueraignty thereon,
But sure I feare we shall neuer winne him to it.

Ma. Marry God forbid his grace should say vs nay.

Enter Catesby.

Buc. I feare he will, how now *Catesby*,
What sayes your Lord?

Cat. My Lord he wonders to what end you haue assembled
Such troopes of Citizens to speake with him,
His grace not being warnd thereof before:
My lord, he feares you meane no good to him.

Buc. Sory I am my noble cousin should
Suspect me that I meane no good to him,
By heauen I come in perfect loue to him,
And so once more returne and tell his grace:
When holy and deuout religious men,
Are at their beads, tis hard to daw them hence,
So swete is zealous contemplation.

Enter Rich, and two Bishops aloft.

Ma. See where he stands betweene two Clergimen.

Buc. Two props of vertue for a Christian Prince:
To stay him from the fall of vanity,

Famous

of Richard the Third.

Famous *Plantagenet*, most gracious prince,
Lend fauorable eares to my request:
And pardon vs the interruption
Of thy deuotion and right Christian zeale.

Glo. My Lord, there needs no such Apologie,
I rather doe beseech you pardon me,
Who earnest in the seruice of my God,
Neglect the visitation of my friends:
But leauing this, what is your graces pleasure?

Buc. Euen that I hope which pleaseth God above,
And all good men of this vngouerned Ile.

Glo. I doe suspect, I haue done some offence,
That seeme disgracious in the Cities eyes,
And that you come to reprehend my ignorance:

Buc. You haue my Lord: would it please your grace
At our intreaties to amend that fault.

Glo. Else wherefore breath I in a Christian land?

Buc. Then know it is your fault that you resigne
The Supream Seate, the thronemaiesticall,
The Scepter office of your Ancestors.

The lineall glory of your royall House,
To the corruption of a blemisht stocke:
Whilest in the mildenesse of your sleepe thoughts,
Which heere we waken to your Countries good:

This noble Ile doth want his proper limbes,
Her face defac't with scars of infamy,
And almost shouldred in this swallowing gulph
Of blinde forgetfullnesse and darke obliuion:

Which to recouer we hartily solícite
Your gracious selfe to take on you the soueraignty thereon
Not as *Protector*, *Steward*, *Substitute*,
Nor lowly factor for an others gaine?

But as successiue from blood to blood,
Your right of birth your Emperie, your owne:
For this conformed with the Citizens,

Your worshipfull and very louing friends,
And by there vehement instigation,
In this iust sute come I to mone your Grace.

Glo. I know not whither to depart in silence,

H